

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of December 3, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, and 20 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1, 7, 9, 12-14, 17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murkami, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,384,536) and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kormos, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,285) in view of Frelburger, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,475,146)

Claims 2-6 and 8 have been allowed.

Claims 7-9 and 15 stand objected to as containing informalities.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murkami.

Claims 11 and 21 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Frelburger.

**The Claims Distinguish Patentably
Over the References of Record**

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter indicated as allowable from claims 11 and 21. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 1** and **claim 7** dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 11, previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form to include all of the subject matter contained in the base claim from which claim 11 was previously dependent. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 11**, and **claims 10, and 12-13** dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter indicated as allowable from claims 11 and 21. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 14** is now in condition for allowance.

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Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter indicated as allowable from claims 11 and 21. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 15** and **claim 16** dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 21, previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form to include all of the subject matter contained in the base claim from which claim 21 was previously dependent. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 21**, and **claims 19 and 20** dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

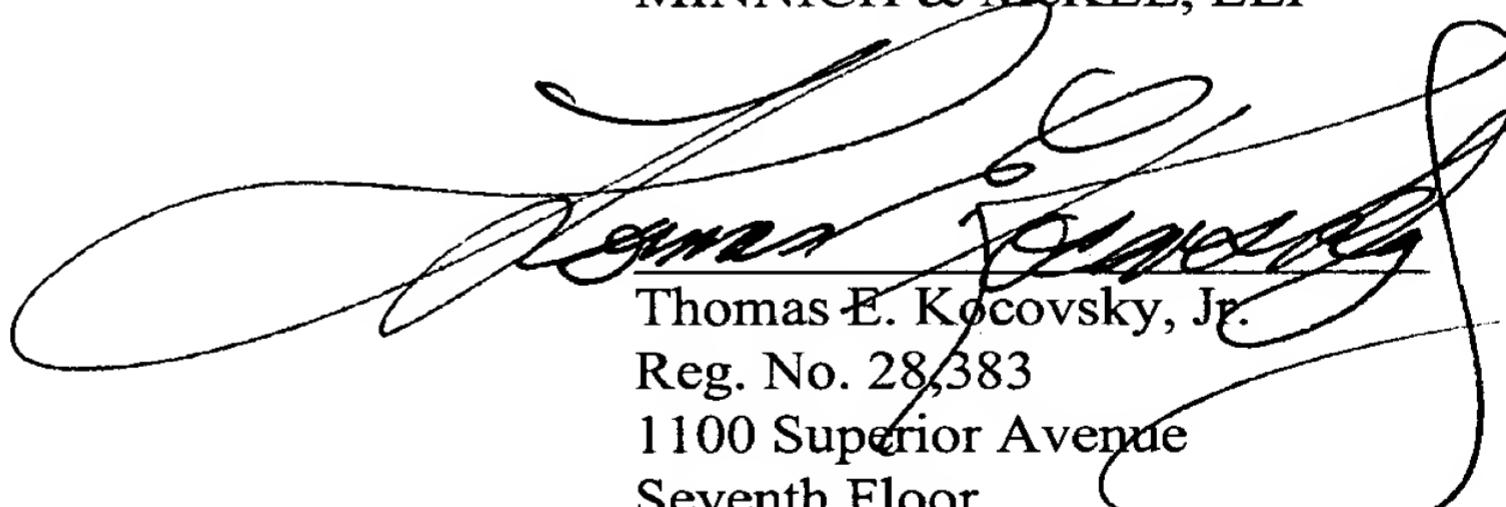
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1-8, 10-16, and 19-21 (all pending claims) distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case(s), he is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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